

REMARKS

Claim 10 has been rejected as anticipated by Breed (US 614432). Claim 10 has been amended to clarify, “a processor dividing each of the plurality of occupant areas in the image into a plurality of subimages,” which is not shown by Breed.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected as obvious over Kamei (US 5,528,698) “explained by” Yuhara (US 6,548,804) in view of Breed (US 6,324,453).

Kamei does not divide the image into a plurality of subimages of predetermined spatial regions. The “segmentor 622” (col. 6, lines 18-39 referenced by the Examiner) does not divide the image into a plurality of subimages. The output of the segmentor is an “enhanced image” (singular) with edge detection. There is no indication that the “sub image space 620” is a plurality of images divided from the original image.

Further, Kamei does not generate a spatial feature matrix of the image based upon the plurality of subimages (the Examiner cites col. 6, lines 18-39). Kamei does not analyze the spatial feature matrix (the Examiner cites col. 6, lines 11-39) as claimed. Again, the output of the “segmentor” is a single enhanced image with edge enhancement, not a plurality of subimages. Grouping together a plurality of neighboring pixels for processing an edge enhancement operation still does not represent “generating a spatial feature matrix” or “analyzing the spatial feature matrix.”

Kamei does not disclose “capturing an image of a plurality of occupant seating areas” and “classifying a plurality of occupants in the occupant seating areas.” The Examiner argues that it would be obvious to modify Kamei in view of Breed “for the purpose of providing an occupant vehicle monitoring system which is not affected by temperature or thermal gradients, and to track occupants in a sufficiently short time during a crash.” However, Kamei is only concerned with determining “whether a vehicle passenger seat is unoccupied, is occupied by a person, or is occupied by a child seated in a rear-facing child

carrier.” (col. 1, lines 8-10). Since Kamei is only concerned with the front passenger seat, there is no reason to modify the Kamei sensors to monitor more than one occupant area.

Claims 1 and 20

Additionally, Kamei does not divide the image into a plurality of subimages of predetermined spatial regions. There is no indication that the “sub image space 620” is a plurality of images divided from the original image. The “segmentor 622” referenced by the Examiner does not divide the image into a plurality of subimages, or if it does divide it in some interim step, the output of the segmentor is an “enhanced image” (singular). This “enhanced image” is the input to the interest point locator 632 (col. 6, lines 27-30). Since the output is a single “enhanced image,” Kamei could not possibly “generate a spatial feature matrix of the image based upon the plurality of subimages,” (Claim 1). Similarly, with a single “enhanced image,” Kamei could not “generate a plurality of low-level descriptors from each of the plurality of subimages” as recited in claim 20.

For these additional reasons, Kamei does not anticipate claims 1 and 20.

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Respectfully submitted,

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